

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative during the telephone interviews on July 26 and 27, 2002. The final Office Action dated May 13, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 5-7 and 9 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R § 1.83(a) as they do not show “the low and high voltages of the AC voltage being applied to the plurality of low and high voltage electrodes respectively, wherein the AC voltage is applied in parallel to the odd-numbered lamps and even-numbered lamps.” Also, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because of the features set forth above. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 1-9 are now believed to be moot in view of the amendments to the pending claims.

In addition, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Duijneveldt (U.S. Patent No. 5,975,722). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 5 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “...wherein an inner wall of each lamp is coated with a BAM type phosphor, and a thickness of the BAM type phosphor at the low voltage electrodes is different from that at the high voltage electrodes, wherein an AC voltage from an inverter is applied to the low and high voltage electrodes such that a high voltage noise at the high voltage electrodes is offset by the adjacent low voltage electrodes, and wherein a difference of color sense ($\Delta uv = ((u_1 - u_2)^2 + (v_1 - v_2)^2)^{1/2}$) of the back light unit is below 0.004 in which $u = 4x/(3 + 12y - 2x)$, $v = (2/3) \times (9y)/(3 + 12y - 2x)$, x and y are color coordinates defined in CIE, u_1 is the maximum value of u, v_1 is the maximum value of v, u_2 is the minimum value of u, and v_2 is the minimum value of v.” Van Duijneveldt fails to disclose at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5, and claims 6-7, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references. For similar reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 is also allowable.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other

than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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